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STATINTL

~~Fulbright~~ Bares Cuba Memorandum

By the Associated Press

Washington

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D) of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, raised strong objections to a United States-backed invasion of Cuba in a memorandum to President Kennedy in March, 1961, shortly before the Bay of Pigs disaster.

The communication was published for the first time in a book out Wednesday, "Fulbright of Arkansas." It is a collection of the Senator's papers and speeches edited by Karl E. Meyer, editorial writer for the Washington Post.

Senator Fulbright's argument was that the United States would get such a moral black eye and set off such public reaction south of the Rio Grande, that the result would be a net loss for this country even if Premier Fidel Castro's Communist regime were successfully erased as a base for subversive organization and money.

Course Discouraged

"For the United States to overthrow Castro behind a façade of Cuban exiles would merely add fuel to the appeal of Castroism," Senator Fulbright wrote. "Such an action would be denounced from the Rio Grande to Patagonia as an example of imperialism. . . . We would undoubtedly also confront a serious situation in the UN."

Senator Fulbright's preference was for an effort to insulate and isolate Dr. Castro from the rest of Latin America.

Expanding on that point, he wrote President Kennedy:

"Whether we like it or not, we are in truth engaged in a kind of competitive coexistence with Castro, to see whose system can produce reform and progress more quickly. . . ."

Other Side Scanned

"To look at the other side of the proposition, it would be a fatal confession of lack of faith in ourselves and our values if we decreed that Castro must go because he might succeed."

Senator Fulbright expressed doubt, moreover, that the Cuban revolutionary front, slated to take over once Dr. Castro was overthrown, was led by someone who would inherit

Strengthening Urged

The social and political fabric of Latin America "must be strengthened very materially before vigorous action can be expected" from the Organization of American States in the Cuban situation, Senator Fulbright wrote. But he said such a development was possible "provided that the Soviet Union uses Cuba only as a political and not as a military base."

Senator Fulbright explained that by "military" he meant missiles and nuclear weapons—not small conventional arms.

That contrasts with the position Senator Fulbright took under the earlier circumstances.

He is described as the only participant, in a key meeting called by President Kennedy April 4, 1961, who opposed invasion on both moral and practical grounds.

The invasion effort began April 17.